

REC Recycling Calendar Topics for Statewide Education Plan for 2024

Main Themes

= Primary

= Secondary

Most common contaminants:



No Batteries



No Shredded Paper



No Tangles, Cords, Hoses or Chains



No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap



No Scrap Metal



No Bulky Plastic Items

[Access all resources linked in this document via Drop Box.](#)

January	February	March
<p><u>E-Waste</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donate or recycle small electronics, games, and cell phones. Battery enclosed electronics (such as cell phones) can start fires if punctured or crushed. Recycle them at drop-offs. Check with your county or city for options. 	<p><u>Random Metal Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes hangers, pots and pans, pipes, and auto parts. • Metal items can damage the recycling sorting facility equipment and harm workers. Metals are recyclable anywhere scrap metal is collected. 	<p><u>Batteries and Cellphones</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These items can cause harmful fires at recycling facilities. Don't place in your recycling or trash cart; recycle at drop-offs or participating retailers.
<p><u>Yes it Gets Recycled!: Cardboard</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardboard boxes are made of long, strong fibers that can be recycled many times. New cardboard boxes are made with recycled content right here in Minnesota! 	<p><u>Yes it Gets Recycled!: Metal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metal can be recycled over and over again without wearing out. 	<p><u>Yes it Gets Recycled!: Glass</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass is infinitely recyclable in a truly circular system; this material never wears out!
April	May	June
<p><u>Paper Shredding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shredded paper cannot be recycled in your curbside recycling bin. • Take confidential papers to be shredded at a community sponsored event or a participating business. 	<p><u>Plastic Bags</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic bags are the most common non-acceptable item found in the recycling bin! Do not place in your curbside recycling bin. Instead, drop off plastic bags at participating retailers. 	<p><u>No Small Plastic Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't put small items like straws, plastic utensils or loose caps in the recycling. Small items fall through the recycling facility equipment and end up in the trash. Keep caps on plastic bottles and aluminum tabs attached to cans. <p>Sign up to participate in Plastic Free July next month!</p>
<p><u>Yes it Gets Recycled!: Paper</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper can be recycled into a variety of new products, including insulation, food packaging, egg cartons, and more! • <u>Earth Day</u> April 22 	<p><u>Yes it Gets Recycled!: Plastic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic is often recycled into new durable goods like plastic lumber for decks and furniture or lawn edging. Recycle plastics #1, #2 & #5. Plastic #2 HDPE is commonly used for milk and laundry containers and can be recycled into new, durable goods. 	<p><u>Recycling Saves Water!</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling one ton of paper saves 7,000 gallons of water – so you're saving two resources when you recycle one!

REC Recycling Calendar Topics for Statewide Education Plan for 2024 (cont.)

July	August	September
<p><u>Sharps and Needles</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep recycling sorting facility workers safe; take these materials to a city drop-off or county Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility. 	<p><u>Large Bulky Plastic Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broken children's toys, lawn chairs, bins, totes, and laundry baskets are not recyclable curbside or at drop-offs. These items belong in the trash. 	<p><u>Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall cleaning: Remove products from your garage that may freeze and take unwanted items to a HHW facility for proper disposal.
<p><u>Recycling Saves Energy!</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aluminum is one of the most valuable recyclables, and making a can out of recycled aluminum saves 90% of the energy it would take to make a new can out of bauxite ore. <u>Plastic Free July</u> 	<p><u>Recycling Jobs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 78,000 jobs in Minnesota are directly or indirectly supported by the recycling industry. Recycling helps people, the economy, and the planet. 	<p><u>Recycling Saves Natural Resources!</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every time you recycle an item (clean paper and boxes, or bottles and cans), you prevent cutting down trees or digging up raw materials to manufacture these items.
October	November	December
<p><u>Holiday Lights and Extension Cords</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long, stringy items like holiday lights and extension cords get caught up in the recycling facility machines. Recycle at drop-off centers or participating retailers. 	<p><u>Plastic Bags</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not put recyclables in a plastic bag. Do not put plastic bags in the recycling cart. 	<p><u>Batteries and Cell Phones</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These items can cause fires if punctured. Don't place batteries or cell phones in your recycling or trash cart. Recycle them at household hazardous waste facilities or drop-off centers.
<p><u>Recycling Myth</u></p> <p>Myth: My recycling doesn't actually get recycled.</p> <p>Fact: Minnesota has robust recycling programming, and our residents recycle over 2 million tons of recycling each year! With more than 100 companies using recycled material in their products! Plus, in Minnesota, it is illegal to throw away recycling that is collected separately.</p>	<p><u>Recycling Myth</u></p> <p>Myth: Any item with a recycling symbol can be recycled in a recycling bin.</p> <p>Fact: The recycling symbol is not regulated and can be found on non-recyclable products. Always check with your city or county for recycling guidelines.</p> <p>What plastic resin codes and plastic products are recyclable?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>America Recycles Day</u> November 15 	<p><u>Recycling Myth</u></p> <p>Myth: If I don't know if something should be recycled, I should put it in the recycling bin just in case it can get recycled.</p> <p>Fact: This is called 'wishcycling'. If you don't know if something should go in the recycling bin, find out from your city or county before you put it in the bin. Remember the phrase 'when in doubt, find out!'.</p>

- **Primary** - Messaging that should take priority for that month.
- **Secondary** - Messaging that could be run in addition to the primary messaging for that month.
- [Refer to 2024 Organics Calendar for monthly messaging related to organics.](#)
- Share your organization's images and messages that others may use in DropBox.
- Request access to REC DropBox by emailing Jon Klapperich at jklapperich@mnchamber.com.